

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PONTA 00172 132305Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
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FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1937
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COMUSFORAZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PONTA DELGADA 0172

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, PO
SUBJECT: TWA ACCESS TO LAJES - LOCAL REACTION TO TWA REPRESENTATIVE'S

PRESS CONFERENCE IN AZORES

REF: (A) LISBON 1533; (B) LISBON 1348; (C) LISBON 1725; (D) PONTA
DELGADA 0026

1. PORTUGAL TWA REPRESENTATIVE KRUEGER'S PRESS CONFERENCE IN LAJES MARCH 1 TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON TWA'S FAILURE TO INITIATE LAJES SERVICE HAS PROVOKED SURPRISINGLY LITTLE LOCAL REACTION. AZOREAN NEWSPAPERS AND THE GOVERNMENT OWNED RADIO STATION, RDP-AZORES, PLAYED THE PRESS CONFERENCE STRAIGHT WITH NO COMMENT. THE ONE EXCEPTION FROM GENERAL EVENHANDEDNESS WAS THE TERCEIRAN DAILY "A UNIAO" WHICH SEVERAL DAYS LATER RAN A DISTORTED FOLLOW-UP STORY HINTING STRONGLY THAT TWA DID NOT REALLY WISH TO SERVE LAJES. "A UNIAO" IS CLOSE TO THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC GENERAL GALVAO DE FIGUEREDO AND SYMPATHETIC TO THE TAP POSITION.

2. BOTH THE MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PACHECO DE ALMEIDA HAVE AVOIDED PUBLIC
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COMMENT. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE MINISTER'S ILL-ADVISED AND MISLEADING ASSERTION, PUBLISHED JANUARY 8, THAT THE GOP HAD AUTHORIZE
D
TWA LANDING RIGHTS AT LAJES HAD REKINDLED LOCAL SPECULATION THAT THE TAP MONOPOLY THERE MIGHT BE BROKEN(REF D).

3. BAD WEATHER PREVENTED KRUEGER FROM MEETING DIRECTLY WITH

PACHECO DE ALMEIDA IN HORTA AS PLANNED.

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Message Attributes

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